

**MINUTES**

For: Steppingley Parish Council  
 Held on: Wednesday, 5 January 2022

**PRESENT**

Hugh Jackson (Chair)  
 Pauline Henninger  
 Marcus Webb  
 Lionel Yarde  
 Julie Todd (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Neil Bunyan - CBC  
 1 Resident

**APOLOGIES**

Melissa Jordan  
 Chris Wood  
 Cllr Charles Gomm – CBC  
 Cllr Gareth Mackey – CBC

<b>Agenda Item</b>		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Cllrs Jordan and Wood and CBC Cllrs Gomm and Mackey.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>MEMBERS' INTERESTS</b> None	
<b>3.</b>	<b>CBC COUNCILLORS' REPORTS</b> Cllr Bunyan reported: <u>Steppingley Road Older Persons Housing</u> – Work scheduled to start in March. <u>Flitwick Interchange Station</u> Works have started. <u>Refuse Bin Collections</u> – currently maintaining collections. Daily monitoring due to staff absences which are higher due to COVID. <u>Steppingley Crematorium</u> No update available. To date 45 against application, 1 comment – 5 councils have objected. Bedford Crematorium have confirmed there is currently spare capacity. <u>Ward Councillors' Grant</u> – monies available. It was agreed that SPC would request funding for a hexagonal tree seat made from recycled plastic. This would go round the Platinum Jubilee acer which will be sited to the right of the pavilion. <u>Byway Fingerpost</u> – a sign fingerpost is needed at junction with Center Parcs circular route. Cllr Jackson to send Cllr Bunyan What3Words location for Cllr Bunyan to progress. <u>Field Behind Steppingley Hospital</u> – request has been submitted for spraying the weeds in the spring. <u>Proposed Aldi Store</u> – no update. <u>WWII Lost Airmen</u> – Cllr Webb congratulated Cllr Mackey on the memorial and recent service.	<b>Clerk</b>          <b>HJ/NB</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF 10 NOVEMBER 2021 and 6 DECEMBER 2021 (EGM)</b> It was unanimously agreed that both sets of minutes represented a true account of the meetings and were duly signed.	

<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b> To be dealt with under Reports.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p> <p>a) <u>Planning</u> See 3. Crematorium above. <u>CB/21/05182/FULL and CB/21/05183/LB – The Old Rectory</u> The plans for the above applications were viewed and discussed and it was unanimously agreed that SPC have no objections. SPC strongly supports the use of same/matching bricks and tiles. Both applications come under the single residence status of The Old Rectory. <u>Vincent’s Farm, Froghall Road</u> – Cllr Jackson received an email from Cllr Ghent, CBC Housing and Assets confirming the survey has been completed and an action plan is being formulated. Cllr Jackson replied requesting either a copy of the report or a summary. To date no response. Cllr Jackson to pursue through Cllr Mackey.</p> <p>b) <u>Highways</u> Cllr Wood sent in the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Entrances – Paul Salmon, CBC Highways has confirmed he would approve the proposal to replace the village gates with graduated bollards. The works would be the responsibility of SPC. Cllr Wood suggested that the works could take place at the same time as Flitwick Road closure for AW.</li> <li>• SIDs – the report will be available this month. The Clerk reported that following a meeting between Tingrith PM and Paul Salmon in the morning the SIDS report and Rural Match Funding paperwork will be sent to councils next week.</li> </ul> <p>c) <u>Footpaths, P3, Hedges, Tree Warden &amp; Conservation</u> Cllr Yarde reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees – Cllrs Wood and Yarde have planted a crescent of trees to the right of the pavilion. These trees have been gifted to the village by Martin Staples. All agreed this was very generous and a letter of thanks should be sent.</li> <li>• It was proposed that an Acer Campestre Queen Elizabeth (to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee) would be planted in the centre of the crescent with a tree bench (see 3 above). This was unanimously agreed. Funding from CBC.</li> <li>• Queen’s Green Canopy – trees to be registered.</li> <li>• Peakes End Bend/Footpath – overgrown vegetation on bank reported 3 weeks ago to CBC. Cllr Yarde to chase.</li> </ul> <p>d) <u>SVA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque for £480.69 payable to the SVA was raised for SPC’s contribution to the insurance.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>HJ/GM</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>LY/CW</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>LY</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Gigaclear</u> – it was agreed this was an excellent extra facility for the village hall which should help generate extra bookings. The facility would enhance PC meetings.</li> <li>• Bus shelter – Councillors noted that the bus shelter is well used both as a seat and library. Discussion re book shelves and noticeboard.</li> </ul> <p>e) <u>Recreation Ground</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Yarde showed picture of hooped fencing around play area. All agreed this would be ideal.</li> <li>• Gate height restriction – it was agreed to relook into this Cllr Jackson to approach contact.</li> </ul> <p>f) <u>Steppingley Profile</u> See Highways above.</p> <p>g) <u>Communications</u> <u>Gigaclear</u> – broadband for the village hall to be provided under Local Community Hub initiative – installation and first year free. If well used it is likely that this facility will continue at no cost.</p> <p>h) <u>Finance</u> The financial spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Balances: Current Account    £8,474.98 Reserve Account    £9,204.66</p> <p>Payments: SVA – Insurance - £480.69 Hugh Jackson – Tree Lights - £81.46</p>	<p><b>HJ</b></p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>2023 BUDGET + PRECEPT</b> Draft budget circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £14k approx will be carried forward</li> <li>• £8k to be kept as reserve (best practice to have one year’s precept in reserve)</li> <li>• £6k to be spent on village entrance bollards/SIDS/playground fencing</li> <li>• Clerk’s salary to be raised to SCP16 £12.48 ph from April 2022</li> <li>• Amounts per category agreed as per attached.</li> </ul> <p>Precept – it was unanimously agreed to raise the precept to £7,980 – a rise of 2.5%.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>

<b>8.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b> Circulated prior to the meeting.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> Open Forum – it was agreed to open future meetings with Open Forum. Item to last no longer than 15 minutes.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> Thursday, 10 March 2022 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.	

The above are considered a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Signed .....  
Hugh Jackson (Chairman)

Date .....